

Amendments to Specification

Please amend the specification as follows.

Page 3, replace the paragraph at lines 15-18 with the following paragraph:

The invention further relates to a radiation sterilization stable sheath-core multi-component fiber suited for making a thermally bonded nonwoven fabric wherein the core polymer is polyethylene ~~teraphthalate~~ terephthalate and the sheath fiber is polypropylene terephthalate ~~teraphthalate~~.

Page 16, replace the paragraph at lines 6-26 with the following paragraph:

Another aspect is to provide bicomponent or polymers such as sheath-core arrangements. A sheath-core bi-component fiber is illustrated in Figure ~~[[4]]~~ 6 where a fiber 80 is shown in cross section. The sheath polymer 82 surrounds the core polymer 84 and the relative amounts of polymer may be adjusted so that the core polymer 84 may comprise more or less than fifty percent of the cross sectional area. With this arrangement, a number of attractive alternatives can be produced. For example, the sheath polymer 82 can be blended with pigments which are not wasted in the core, thereby reducing the costs for pigments while obtaining a suitably colored material. A hydrophobic material such as a fluorocarbon may also be spun into the sheath polymer to obtain the desired liquid repellency at minimal cost. An antimicrobial additive may be suitable in some healthcare applications. Stabilizers may be provided for a number of applications such as ultraviolet energy exposure, where outdoor exposure to sunlight may be one example. A static electricity discharge additive may be used for applications where a build up of electricity is possible and undesirable. Another additives may be suitable such as a wetting agent to make the sheet material suitable as a wipe or absorbent or to allow liquids to flow through the fabric while very fine solids are collected in the fine pores of the sheet material. As the sheet material is proposed to be comprised of generally continuous filaments, the sheet material may be amenable as a wipe having low linting characteristics.